

What is “American”?



Welcome to American Literature! A key question that we will encounter as we travel through American Literature is “what is American?” The different novels, short stories and non-fiction will bring interesting perspectives on that question. Therefore, we begin with an evaluation of our own idea of America and American-not only the physical person, but the definition, characteristics, analysis and creation of what constitutes America(n).

In a well-developed, thorough, analytical and critical essay, you are to explore the idea of America and American. What is an American? What the characteristics of America? Americans? What symbolizes America(ns)?

In addition to an essay, you are also to present a visual of some form that you feel best represents America or being an American. Media examples include: photography, video clips (under 15 seconds), collage, imovie (under 15 seconds) or another acceptable visual medium. If you are interested in something that isn’t listed, please come and talk to me and I may allow it. When presenting your visual you need to be able to explain why you chose the image that you did –have a good reason and logical support.

Essay Requirements

- 2 FULL pages
- Typed MLA format (as shown to you in class)
 - size 12 Times New Roman
 - 1” margins
 - double spaced
 - no bold
 - no extra spaces
 - correct heading and header

Visual Requirements

- under 15 seconds if a video clip or movie
- appropriate visual
- mature visual (no cartoony images)
- has depth to what is American

DUE DATE: Beginning of class Monday- August 30th